

# UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

V, No. 9

December 1977 - January 1978

## WHITE HOUSE, NASA CONFIRM UFO "STUDY"

Both White House and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officials have confirmed to UFOR that the White House has asked NASA to determine whether that agency should continue an investigation of UFO sightings reported since the closing of Project Blue Book in late 1969. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. V, No. 8, p. 5).

"NASA has been asked to determine, on the basis of a preliminary study, whether they should undertake to sponsor a new investigation of the UFO phenomena," stated Stanley D. Schneider -- assistant to Dr. Frank Press, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President -- in a letter dated October 31.

On November 3, O.B. Lloyd, Jr., NASA's director of public services, wrote: "As no decision has been reached on whether NASA will take on a new and continuing investigation of aerial phenomena, we are placing your correspondence in a special suspense file along with letters we have received from other serious UFO students. If it is determined that NASA will assume the full UFO investigative function, we will be back in touch with you. Should another agency get the assignment, we will turn over our UFO file to the appropriate office."

According to a recent Associated Press wire story, however, NASA officials are not too excited about the idea.

"We're not anxious to do it because we're not sure what we can do," remarked Dave Williamson, NASA assistant for special projects. "It's my personal opinion that it's not wise to do research on something that is not a measurable phenomena... Give me one little green man -- not a theory or memory of one -- and we can have a multimillion-dollar program. It's a scientific dilemma. How do you prove something that doesn't exist?"

Williamson is heading a technical team expected to recommend by January 1 whether or not the space agency should take up the cudgel and reopen an official government UFO investigation.

(Editorial comment: Williamson's remarks in the AP story are reminiscent of those of the late Dr. Edward U. Condon, head of the University of Colorado UFO Project, who described his UFO inquiry as a "silly business" soon after the project announcement was made. To ask someone to lead an inquiry into something he believes "doesn't exist" is somewhat like asking the fox to guard the henhouse. Or maybe Philip Klass should conduct the inquiry. It would make about as much sense).

## UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ASKED TO ESTABLISH UFO DEPARTMENT

A call for the establishment of a department, agency or "small *ad hoc* committee" within the United Nations (UN) to study the UFO problem was sounded before the UN General Assembly on October 7 by Sir Eric M. Gairy, Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs of Grenada, a small island in the Caribbean. In a wide-ranging speech, the top government official also urged an investigation of the Bermuda Triangle mystery and psychic phenomena.

"I have myself seen an unidentified flying object, and have been overwhelmed by what I have seen," Gairy remarked, "but my main interest is not scientific but essentially political, since I am of the firm belief that this world body should take a legitimate interest in a matter which has aroused general world-wide concern, including that of the leaders of several countries."

The Prime Minister added there is considerable news media interest "in the progress we have made in having included in the agenda for this thirty second session an item calling for establishment of an agency or department devoted specifically to research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena." He also said he "might have" discussed the problem with President Carter during the Panama Canal treaties signing ceremony.



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Gairy stated his government was "very flexible" on how the UN might go about studying UFOs. Instead of another costly agency, he suggested, UN members may prefer "a small *ad hoc* committee to study the problem and report back to the General Assembly."

UFOR is indebted to Clarence W. Stackhouse, Bethlehem, Pa., for supplying us with a copy of Prime Minister Gairy's speech.

#### MORE DETAILS ON U.S.S.R. REPORT

UFOR has received additional details on the mysterious phenomenon in the skies over the U.S.S.R. on or about September 20. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. V, No. 8, p. 7).

According to the Soviet news agency Tass, "a huge mass of light flared up at about 4 a.m. over Petrozavodsk in Soviet Karelia, 130 miles from the Finnish border.

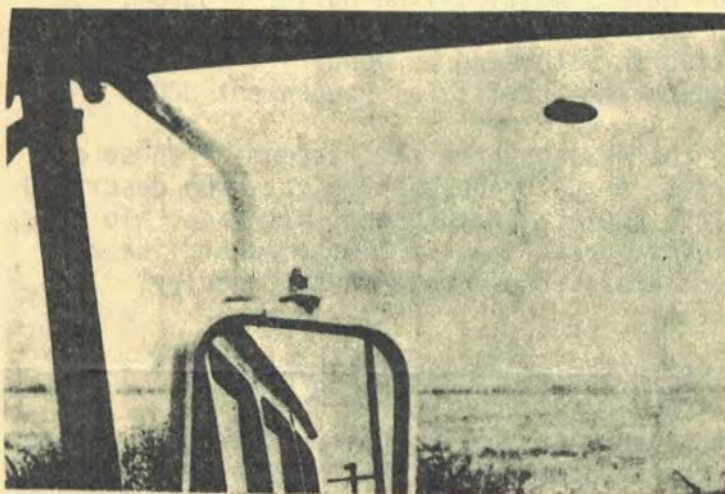
"A huge star suddenly flashed out of a dark sky, sending shafts of light impulses to earth," Tass stated. "This star was moving slowly towards Petrozavodsk sending out numerous thin light rays... The impression was of a torrential rain of light. Some time later the glow ended. The 'jellyfish' became a bright semicircle and resumed its movement in the direction of Lake Onega."

Following this, gray clouds appeared with a "semicircular aperture bright red in the center" which lasted 10-12 minutes.

There was also a report that "a bright ball of fire was visible for about four minutes" over Helsinki, Finland.

(Sources: Associated Press and United Press International wire stories).

#### HEFLIN PHOTO CONTROVERSY CONTINUES; PHILIP KLOSS JOINS FRAY



UFO Photo by Rex Heflin, Santa Ana, Calif.,  
 August 3, 1965

The current controversy over the UFO photographs taken by Orange County Highway Dept. employee Rex Heflin in Santa Ana, Calif., on August 3, 1965, shows no sign of abating after more than a year. (See photo, left). Even Philip Klass, the top UFO debunker of the past decade, has joined the fray in offering to underwrite the cost of a polygraph test for Heflin.

Details of the case are well-known to even the most cursory UFO student, and space does not permit a recounting of them here. (For further details on the case and the attempts to discredit the photographs, see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. V, No. 1, pgs. 3-5). Suffice it to say that few UFO witnesses in any category have been subjected to closer, more scientific scrutiny than Heflin. He has passed every rigid test with flying colors and is regarded as nearly impeccably honest.

Yet, William H. Spaulding, an official of Ground Saucer Watch (GSW), Phoenix, Ariz., and a state director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), sticks to his charge the photos are fraudulent. A rising chorus of disagreement is being heard from respected UFO researchers, including the original investigators in the case.

In an open letter to Spaulding, undated but recently circulated, Mrs. Idabel Epperson, Los Angeles -- who has, perhaps, spent more time than anyone else interviewing Heflin -- chided the GSW official for earlier stating that a "scratch" on the photos indicated a "string" holding a UFO model, then later stating the "scratch" could have been accidental. Why was this "scratch" not detected during earlier periods of intense analysis? Because proper detecting equipment was not available then, according to Spaulding.



"Please do not forget that a JPL [Jet Propulsion Laboratory] scientist, who *invented the computer enhancement*, whose education, knowledge and experience with computer enhancement of photographs is indeed superior to your own, has said that, '*there was no such scratch on the film*,'" Mrs. Epperson stated. "He also declared the Heflin UFO photographs *to be valid*. Another question that interested researchers have been asking is, 'What would be the odds of this accidental scratch being in precisely the right place, in a vertical position and merging with the UFO in just exactly the proper spot to cause the UFO to appear to be hanging by a string?'"

Spaulding claims he has made computer analyses of more than 600 UFO photographs at an average cost of \$100 for each photo. That's a whopping \$60,000.

"WHO picked up the tab?" Mrs. Epperson wondered.

David A. Schroth is concerned over the controversy since his organization -- UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis -- uses photo number one of the Heflin series in its "fact sheet." On September 22, 1977, he wrote Jerome Clark concerning an article in the September issue of *Fate* magazine in which Clark apparently gave the impression he agreed with Spaulding's hoax assertion.

"The information that has come to my attention calls into question both the credibility of GSW's so-called photo analyses in general and the plausibility of the 'hoax' hypothesis as applied to the Heflin photographs in particular," Schroth remarked.

The St. Louis researcher added that Heflin's co-workers and a myriad of investigators "found him to be a sensible and reliable individual."

On September 5, Robert J. Kirkpatrick, news editor of *The (Santa Ana) Register* (the paper that originally broke the Heflin story), wrote Bruce Maccabee, Silver Spring, Md.: "To be quite blunt about this belated controversy regarding the legitimacy of the Heflin UFO photos, I find it most annoying -- 12 years after the photos first appeared -- to find detractors, whose professional credentials and expertise I know nothing about, drawing conclusions (and publishing them) in such an irresponsible manner -- and using copy photos of undetermined generation."

#### *Fifth Set of Photos Reported*

On September 17 and again on October 16, David J. Branch -- long-time UFO researcher, formerly author of a weekly UFO column in *The Register*, and one of the original Heflin case investigators -- wrote Spaulding, asking: (1) where Spaulding obtained the "5 sets of pictures you have analyzed, or are in the process of analyzing"; (2) "what equipment has been used in performing each analysis"; (3) "where and by whom each analysis was made"; and (4) the possibility of obtaining "a copy of your 50 page report on the Heflin photographs."

"It is GSW's opinion that the Heflin series is a hoax," Spaulding replied on October 18. "This is based upon the processing of four (4) separate sets of photographs. We have generated a rough draft, 50-page report, which was circulated without our permission, that explains our conclusions. However, due to peer group pressure we are analyzing a fifth set of photographs -- and the *official* (final) report will *not* be issued until that time. My peer group of Ufologists have started a campaign to debase my character.... Since I do not know you, and the possibility exists that you are writing GSW to find out more data on Heflin for the ex-NICAP group, I can not and will not answer your questions until we finish the fifth set of photographs."

In a response dated October 23, Branch writes: "You have in effect called Mr. Heflin a liar, a hoaxer, a fraud.... Why do you refuse to release data that presumably could prove your conclusions?... You state your last analysis upon which your final report presumably will be based is incomplete.... Yet you have reached a conclusion the Heflin photos are 'a hoax.' Your conclusion thus precedes the completion of your analysis. Do you consider that scientific methodology?... If you are unable, after analyses of four sets of pictures, to conclusively prove the photographs are hoaxes (a fact verified by the fact you felt obligated to undertake the analysis of a fifth set), why would the analysis of a fifth set be any more conclusive than the others? (Are they earlier generation photographs?)."

Meanwhile -- on September 29 -- Philip J. Klass wrote Kirkpatrick offering "to underwrite the cost of a polygraph test for Rex Heflin." Klass asked that the following conditions met: (1) "that the test be given by an examiner who has more than 10 years experience in



the field, who is a licensed examiner, i.e. has taken a state examination and passed it, and who is a full/senior member of the American Polygraph Assn. (APA)"; and (2) "that the APA be asked to submit a list of its qualified members in the Los Angeles/Southern California area" and that some "mutually acceptable disinterested party then select the examiner, by lot, from this list." Klass added he would give *The Register* "first crack" at announcing the test results.

(The feasibility of Heflin submitting to a polygraph test was discussed during the earliest days of the investigation. On October 12, 1965, David Branch wrote Richard H. Hall, then NICAP assistant director, that he -- Branch -- had spoken to Allen P. Bristow, associate professor of police science and administration at the California State College at Los Angeles and "a polygraph consultant to a number of local police departments," who stated that, in Branch's words, "in this type of case, no meaningful conclusion could be drawn from such a test.").

On October 14, Kirkpatrick responded to Klass: "You may consider this an interim acceptance of your proposition, but Rex may wish to add his own conditions at a later date, subject to your approval." Kirkpatrick added Heflin "recently sustained a serious back injury while mountain climbing, is suffering excruciating pain and is about to be hospitalized. However, he has indicated that he is willing to go along with your proposal after he is discharged from the hospital."

"At this time," Kirkpatrick continued, "I cannot predict what Heflin's own conditions will be. You must recognize that we are dealing with a very embittered man. While cooperating to the fullest with military authorities and the various news media back in 1965, he was subjected to intensive interrogation, was repeatedly maligned, ridiculed and often horribly misquoted. Heflin has not made a Roosevelt dime through his famous photos... yet both his detractors and defenders have used copy prints of his pictures, and profited thereby, in publishing a plethora of newspaper and magazine articles as well as books on the subject of UFOs."

UFOR is indebted to Mrs. Idabel Epperson, Los Angeles, California, for supplying us with information on the Heflin controversy.

[Editor's note: In UFOR's opinion, to date, neither Spaulding nor anyone else has offered convincing evidence the Heflin photos are fake. Continued analyses of both the pictures and Heflin's character suggest the exact opposite: the photos are possibly the best and most authenticated ever taken, and Heflin's character is above reproach. Additionally the JPL scientist -- using the most up-to-date, sophisticated computer enhancement equipment -- recently reexamined the photos and declared "the films were clear -- there was *no* scratch or mark *whatsoever*." The controversy continues, however, and Heflin has agreed to a polygraph test. In effect, he has been placed "on the spot" by Klass and has little choice but to submit to a test lest his superior credibility begin to wane. In one sense, it is unfortunate that such a man should be forced to "prove" his honesty. In another sense, it may be the only way to silence the negative charges. Maybe then Heflin can continue to live his life free from unwarranted, unsubstantiated slurs upon his excellent reputation. Even so, the UFO debunkers aren't likely to be deterred: they will stand their earthquake-prone ground and move on to other top UFO cases they can rather indiscriminately label as hoaxes. It will be particularly unfortunate if serious UFO investigators find themselves spending more time defending old cases than in investigating new ones, but that may all be part of the dissenters' strategy].

#### CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: A CELESTIAL HYMN (Film Review)

It's a \$19 million extravaganza made under the most secretive conditions of any major film in recent memory, invoking promises of sensory and emotional experiences to stir the mind and soul. The *blitzkrieg* of advance publicity is typical of the marketing usually reserved for a Hollywood blockbuster with all the intellectual depth of a Ross Hunter soap opera. And if the incredibly long lines at the advance premieres in New York and Los Angeles are any indicators, it could rival *Jaws* and *Star Wars* as the biggest box-office hit in motion picture history. For once, all the money-media-public madness is justified: Steven (Jaws) Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* is one of those rarities -- a Hollywood masterpiece; a deeply intellectual, emotional, even spiritual experience; and a celestial hymn that will heighten the cosmic consciousness of some viewers and awaken it in others.



By now, any UFO enthusiast not living in a cave knows the general story line, so we won't elaborate. Writer-Director Spielberg's fascination with UFOs is magnificently apparent, and he combines a serious, fictional look at the subject with an uplifting cosmic magic that simultaneously seeks out the scientist and the wide-eyed child in us all.

The acting is uniformly excellent: Richard Dreyfuss as a power company troubleshooter sent to investigate the most widespread electro-magnetic (E-M) effects from a UFO since *The Earth Stood Still*; his befuddled wife, Teri Garr; French director Francois Truffaut as Lacombe, a mysterious scientist said to be patterned after Dr. Jacques Vallee; Melinda Dillon as a Muncie, Ind., woman whose son (Cary Guffey) displays the childhood wonder and awe adults quickly lose in a world whose energy often seems propelled by cynicism. Dr. J. Allen Hynek was technical consultant and also has a cameo bit in the film.

But it's the last 30 minutes, including the special effects wizardry of Douglas (2001: *A Space Odyssey*) Trumbull, that sends the film into cosmic orbit. After a few colorful "scout" ships manage to raise a little playful hell, the big moment comes: the landing of the gigantic "mother" ship near Devil's Tower, Wyo., in a cloud-wrenching, dazzling, sensory-shattering descent. It is the granddaddy of UFOs -- a colorful, technical marvel that vibrates, throbs, sings and communicates. Its landing is depicted as perhaps the greatest moment in history, and -- at least until the Second Coming -- it will suffice as such.

In one masterful stroke, this brilliant film could do what serious UFO organizations, scientists, books, articles and other motion pictures have failed to do for the past 30 years: raise the public consciousness to such a level that UFOs will become an integral part of our lives. To go even one fanciful step further, it may show the extraterrestrials (ETs) that man has at least a vision that is diametrically opposed to his bellicose history and could persuade the aliens that now may be the right time for mass contact. If so, *Close Encounters* could rank in importance just a little below the actual event.

#### SECRET MEMO TO PRESIDENT ON LOS ANGELES "RAID" DECLASSIFIED

*Orig. dispatched to Pres.  
2/26/42*

1942 memo stamped SECRET, with handwritten words "Orig. dispatched to Pres.," was not declassified until May 3, 1972

After more than 30 years, a secret memorandum to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt from General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, concerning what came to be known as "The Battle of Los Angeles" has been declassified, and UFOR has secured a copy.

Briefly, the facts are these: at about 7 p.m., February 23, 1942, a Japanese submarine surfaced off the California coast near Santa Barbara and bombarded gasoline storage tanks on shore, but "the damage was negligible." The West Coast was placed on alert. At about 2 a.m., February 25, coastal radar picked up "an unidentified target" 120 miles west of Los Angeles, and anti-aircraft (AA) batteries were readied. A blackout was ordered 30 minutes later. At 3:05, at least 6-9 white, luminous objects in a triangular formation were observed traveling in a southeast arc over aircraft and munitions plants along the coast.

The AA guns opened fire. The sky was filled with searchlights, flares and tracer bullets. According to one witness, "air raid sirens were screaming all over the city." By 4:15, the firing subsided, and the objects were no longer seen. No hits were reported.

The following day, General Marshall sent his memorandum to the President. Its contents are disclosed here for the first time, as far as we know:

"The following is the information we have from GHQ at this moment regarding the air alarm over Los Angeles of yesterday morning:

"From details available at this hour:

"1. Unidentified airplanes, other than American Army or Navy planes, were probably over Los Angeles, and were fired on by elements of the 37th CA Brigade (AA) between 3:12 and 4:15 AM. These units expended 1430 rounds of ammunition.

"2. As many as fifteen airplanes may have been involved, flying at various speeds from what is officially reported as being 'very slow' to as much as 200 MPH and at elevations from 9000 to 18000 feet.



- "'3. No bombs were dropped.
- "'4. No casualties among our troops.
- "'5. No planes were shot down.
- "'6. No American Army or Navy planes were in action.

"Investigation continuing. It seems reasonable to conclude that if unidentified airplanes were involved they may have been from commercial sources, operated by enemy agents for purposes of spreading alarm, disclosing location of anti-aircraft positions, and slowing production through blackout. Such conclusion is supported by varying speed of operation and the fact that no bombs were dropped."

There was just one hitch: shortly after the war, a top Japanese intelligence official and others "firmly denied" that Japan had launched such a raid.

UFOR is indebted to Barry Greenwood, Stoneham, Mass., for supplying us with this information.

[Other sources: Gordon I.R. Lore, Jr., and Harold H. Oeneault, Jr., *Mysteries of the Skies -- UFOs in Perspective* (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1968), pgs. 74-87; and Stetson Conn, et al, *Guarding the United States and Its Outposts* (Washington, O.C.: Government Printing Office, 1964), pgs. 87-88].

### READER'S DIGEST ARTICLE IRKS FRIEDMAN



Stanton T. Friedman

Stanton T. Friedman, the only space scientist known "to be devoting full time to UFOs," has come out of his corner swinging and, in 42 rounds, has scored an impressive TKO against Ronald Schiller, author of "Three UFOs -- How Real Are They?" in the November issue of *The Reader's Digest*. The fact that such a relatively short article could contain as many as 42 errors (many of them glaring), misleading statements and biased assumptions has led the nuclear physicist to label it "a factually inaccurate, grossly misleading, defamatory rehash of one writer's biases reinforced by the biases of another" (Philip Klass).

In his article, Schiller "examines" three top cases: (1) the encounter between a military helicopter crew and a UFO near Mansfield, Ohio, on October 18, 1973; (2) the Delphos, Kans., report of November 2, 1971, possibly the best physical evidence case on record; and (3) the Travis Walton abduction case of November 5, 1975, near Heber, Ariz. In debunking these reports, Friedman indicates, the author has fallen for the Klassic theories "hook, line, and sinker."

Space does not permit a full airing of Friedman's highly knowledgeable and lengthy rebuttal, so we will cover about a dozen of the points.

Schiller states or insinuates that: (1) "In 1969, the U.S. Air Force ended a 22-year investigation" of UFOs. (2) Witnesses have frequently seen or photographed "sun dogs" -- "bright circles caused by the sun's reflection on particles of ice in the atmosphere." (3) Between 1969, when the Condon report was released, and the major flap of 1973, there were very few or no UFO sightings reported. (4) "A few scientists" began to seriously study the phenomenon following the 1973 flap. (5) "Klass quickly became convinced" that what Maj. Lawrence Coyne and his crew saw over Ohio was a fireball. (6) The fireball was part of the Orionid meteor shower. (7-8) "What the helicopter crew actually saw hovering overhead, Klass believes, was the after-image of the meteor and its luminous tail, imprinted on their retinas." (9) "As for being 'sucked up' by some mysterious force: given their altitude and rate of descent, the helicopter was due to hit the ground in less than 30 seconds. Klass surmises that the experienced pilot sensed the danger and pulled up instinctively even though he did not remember doing so." (10) "The behavior of the Johnson family [in the Delphos incident] also seemed curious to Klass." (11) Travis Walton "flunked" a polygraph test administered by John A. McCarthy. (12) There have been "millions of UFO landings," but no "tangible evidence."

Friedman's rebuttal: (1) This "is simply not true." The Aerospace Defense Command utilizes sophisticated equipment to track and "react to unknowns," and an Assistant Secretary of Defense admits "that of course the USAF looks into military UFO sightings." (2) "I have to see any evidence that [sun dogs] are an important aspect of ufology." (3) This "is



nonsense." (4) Major UFO organizations have had "scientists involved in their activities for years" before 1973 or even 1969, and the UFO symposium before the U.S. House Science and Astronautics Committee on July 29, 1968, elicited pro-UFO views from a number of scientists. (5) "In almost all the cases Mr. Klass explains he comes to a quick decision as to what the UFO must have been since he knows it could not have been a flying saucer. Then no matter what the evidence is or how much he has to bend the data, ignore data that doesn't fit his explanation, and assail the characters of the witnesses and other investigators, he will stick to his explanation." (6) "Anybody who bothers to check will find that there is an enormous distinction between a big bright fireball and the Orionid meteors and that any connection between any meteor shower and a fireball is tenuous to say the least." (7-8) "The use of the word 'overhead' needs clarification. Mr. Klass needs the so-called meteor to be straight up over the helicopter so he can use the fact that the top of the canopy is green to account for the green light flooding the cockpit." The witnesses, however, said the UFO "was higher than and out in front of the copter. The green light did NOT enter through the green canopy.... Mr. Klass has invented a luminous tail (a feature of a comet) to go with a non-existent meteor fireball." (9) The indication that "helicopter crews would normally be very frightened by the prospect of hitting the ground in 30 seconds... makes no sense." Helicopter crews are "accustomed to night flying" and normally fly "up and down at low altitudes and often with no runway around." (10) "Why would anybody expect Mr. Klass, who has resided in Washington, D.C., for well over 20 years, to be an expert on the behavior of a farm family in Delphos? There is an enormous difference in the cultural, intellectual, and social background." (11) "It is true that the intermediate test was 'flunked,' but it is also true that McCarthy asked inappropriately phrased ambiguous questions and that psychiatrists present said Walton was in no shape to take the test. Why weren't they quoted?" (12) "Whose straw man is this? Which scientist knowledgeable about UFOs talks about Millions of UFO landings?" Perhaps the leading expert on physical trace cases -- Ted Phillips -- "has collected data on more than 1100 landings from 57 countries... but millions???"

Friedman has lectured on UFOs at several hundred colleges and universities throughout the country. Those desiring more information on Friedman and a list of publications offered through his UFO Research Institute may contact him at 31628 Trevor Ave., Hayward, Calif. 94544. Phone: 415-471-0160 (24 hours).

#### AIAA SYMPOSIUM SLATED

A symposium on UFOs and man in space will be presented by the Los Angeles and Orange County Sections of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and the Los Angeles World Futures Society on Saturday, January 28, 1978, according to Dr. William Hassel, vice chairman of the meeting for the Los Angeles Section.

The morning session, beginning at 9:00, will be devoted to "Scientific Aspects of UFO Research." Papers to be presented include "If Ufology Does Its Job, Then What?" by Stanton T. Friedman; "The Zeta Reticuli Episode," by Thomas Gates, director, Space Science Center, Foothill College; "Instrumented UFO Monitoring: A Multidimensional Problem," by Dr. Daniel Harris, astronomer and research director, Project Starlight International; "A Two-Channel Information Theory for the Investigation of UFO Photographs," by Adrian Vance; and "Interstellar Contact in an Evolving Universe," by Dr. Thomas Kuyper, Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Lunch is scheduled for 12:30. Dr. Krafft Ehrlicke, consultant to NASA on Space Programs, will speak on "The New Cosmos and Homo Extraterrestris."

The afternoon session, starting at 2:30, will feature "The Transition of Man to Space." Topics to be covered include the technology and economics of space industrialization and space habitats.

The meeting will be held in the Kinsey Auditorium, east of the main Museum of Science and Technology building, Figueroa Street and Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles. Registration begins at 8 a.m. The price is \$9 (\$10 at door) and includes lunch (no lunch, \$6) and the proceedings document. For further information, call 213-670-0684. Checks may be sent to AIAA, 9841 Airport Blvd., Suite 800, Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.

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We wish to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Year.

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The next edition of *UFO Research Newsletter* will be ready for mailing about February 15, 1978.



THE HAPPY CAMP, CALIFORNIA, SIGHTINGS -- PART I

by Paul Cerny,  
Western Regional Director,  
Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)

A series of UFO sightings and other strange incidents have plagued the Happy Camp, Calif., vicinity from about late October, 1975, through April, 1976.

On October 25, 1975, Steve Harris, 19, and Stan Gayer, 25 -- lumber mill electricians -- were on a flat-topped area called the "saddle." About an hour after dark, they spotted a large red "star" in the northwestern sky. They saw another in the opposite direction. Looking back, they noticed the first one had disappeared. Then the witnesses observed a reddish-orange light pass over a low ridge about five miles away and disappear. As they started down the mountain, a large orange light rose straight up and out of sight in a few seconds.

"We were pretty shook up about that thing, whatever it was," Steve related.

The men drove in their four-wheel drive Ford Bronco to where the orange light took off. They searched the area with flashlights and discovered a pile of what looked like mica or vermiculite, normally a type of packing material. It was about a foot in diameter and 4-5 inches high, as if someone had poured it out of a pail. The two men were certain it was left by the orange object. It had not been there the day before when they were hunting in that spot.

Dr. Richard F. Haines, a physicist, had this material analyzed at a laboratory. The tests indicated another form of vermiculite. How it got there is a mystery. The material is not common to the area.

The next evening, after dark, Steve, Stan, and Carl Jackson, a foreman at the mill, inspected the vermiculite pile and the general area. They brought along a metal detector.

Steve claimed he found three large, shallow imprints in the rocky ground. They were roughly 20 feet apart in a triangle pattern, and up to about an inch deep. Each imprint, according to Steve, was about 18 by 24 inches. Approximately two months later, MUFON investigators first heard of these sightings and arrived on the scene January 2. By this time, rain and snow falls had destroyed any recognition of these prints.

Steve also said the detector indicated metal or at least a reaction in the unit when it passed over the imprints. It was not determined what caused this.

Also at this time, a loud sound was heard. It was high-pitched, perhaps in the vicinity of 10,000 to 12,000 cycles, along with a wow-wow-wow variance in amplitude.

"My God, what is that?" Carl Jackson exclaimed.

Jackson grabbed for a .30 caliber carbine resting on the hood of the Ford Bronco. The loud screeching sound came from just over the embankment toward the canyon below and seemed only 40-50 feet away. Steve described the noise as electronic, similar to microphone feedback.

All three men were examining the imprints and vermiculite pile by flashlight. Stan was near the rear of the car and was using a powerful quartz-iodine hand spotlight. He was lighting up the area and turned the light toward the sound.

"There's eyes, there's eyes, big eyes!" he screamed.

Strangely, nothing was visible but the large eyes even in that extremely bright spotlight. The distance to the eyes was 30-40 feet. They appeared silver and slightly pale blue and were about 2.5 inches in diameter and roughly eight inches apart. What astounded the observers most was that no body or shape was visible. A vague black outline was detected below the eyes, which were about five feet above the ground. It was as if whatever was there was blocking out or absorbing the powerful light in some manner as to render it invisible except for the eyes. Trees and brush in the background were brightly illuminated around and above the entity, but nothing directly behind it showed up.

The witnesses had the distinct impression the "creature" had come up the slope and was watching them as they inspected the ground. They considered firing the rifle at the entity, but thought better of it. Steve commented they could not see anything within five feet around and below the eyes. The light was simply blanked out in this area.

As the "creature" disappeared down the embankment, the trio quickly jumped into the Bronco. They were on flat ground, but could not move the car! All four wheels were spinning and throwing rock and dirt for 15-20 seconds. Then the car bolted forward as if being released. One wheel went into a ditch. The rear universal joint was damaged and had to be repaired. Clearing the ditch, the men sped toward town.

In the next issue, we will cover more close encounters in the Happy Camp area.